

Australia-Japan business ties continue to deepen

Companies and organisations were quick to implement measures against the spread of COVID-19, but business has continued, and there have been several notable developments between Japan and Australia, particularly in the arena of Western Sydney development.

Consul-General Kiya was among the participants in the **Fourth Japan-Australia Infrastructure Networking Meeting** held in Sydney on 3 March, just before COVID restrictions came into place. The meeting was also attended by HE Ambassador Takahashi Reiichiro.



The meeting focused on Western Sydney development. Government and corporate representatives from both Japan and Australia came together to deepen partnerships. The Consul-General said on Twitter that he was "glad to see further progress", and indeed in the next two months, two memoranda of understanding (MoU) were signed.

On 23 April, the **NSW Government, NEC and NEC Australia** signed an MoU to become foundation partners in the co-creation and development of a world-leading Digital Safer and Smarter City environment. NEC will utilise its biometrics, 5G, IoT and AI technologies. Consul-General

Kiya was among those who attended the signing ceremony which was held as a teleconference.

This MoU is the 5th between the NSW Government and a Japanese business or organisation related to the Western Sydney development.



The following month saw the other MoU signed. On 25 May, a three-way MoU was signed by **Hitachi Australia, Liverpool City Council and South Western Sydney Local Health District** on civic and health initiatives such as digital healthcare.

For further information on the MoUs, see:

www.nec.com.au/insights/media/nec-sign-foundation-partnership-with-nsw-government-for-states-digital-technology-revolution

www.hitachi.com.au/about/news-releases/news-2020/200525.html

Consul-General Kiya's newsletter

Consul-General Kiya writes a fortnightly online newsletter. The purpose of the e-newsletter is to introduce various activities he engages in as Consul-General and to share some of his thoughts and feelings as he goes about his duties.

He hopes that through these newsletters more people will learn about the multi-faceted connections between Australia and Japan.

Since the last issue, he has written on the following topics:

- No.18 **Australia's JobMaker plan – New opportunities for the Japanese private sector** (June 26, 2020)
- No.17 **HMAS Kuttabul and the Midget Submarines in Sydney – “We will remember them.”** (June 19, 2020)
- No.16 **Alice Springs and Uluru: Looking beyond COVID-19** (May 29, 2020)
- No.15 **“COVID-safe Australia” – towards the post-COVID world** (May 13, 2020)
- No.14 **ANZAC Day for Japanese** (May 1, 2020)
- No.13 **Australia's Response to Coronavirus (Part 3) – “Strategic Communication”** (April 17, 2020)
- No.12 **Australia's Response to Coronavirus (Part 2) – “Hibernation Strategy” and “Social Distancing” to overcome the “Twin Crisis”** (April 3, 2020)

All previous issues are available online:

www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/about_consul_generals_newsletter.html

Also available in the Japanese-language original:

www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/about_consul_generals_newsletter.html